

Howard County Economic Opportunity and Prosperity Task Force

Minutes (Approved)

Monday, October 30, 2017

3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

C. Vernon Gray Room

1st Floor, George Howard Building

3430 Court House Drive

Ellicott City, MD 21043

Members in attendance: Ali Abidi, Marianne Brackney, Anne Brinker, Paul Casey, Ana Cisneros, Kimberly Flowers, Maddy Halbach, Jason Jannati, Phyllis Madachy, Leonardo McClarty, Elizabeth Noble, and Gopi Suri.

Staff in attendance: Jim Meyd, County Auditor's Office, Jeff Meyers, County Council office, John Gwynn, County Attorney's Office, and Jessie Keller, Council Member Weinstein's office.

Others in attendance: Council Member Weinstein.

The audio recording of the meeting is available on the Task Force website¹.

Chairperson McClarty called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m. Members introduced themselves and provided a brief statement. The staff was introduced to the Task Force.

Council Member Weinstein described the purpose of the Task Force and how it came into being. He indicated his hopes and expectations for the Task Force. He answered questions posed by members.

Mr. Gwynn briefed the Task Force about its legal requirements. He reviewed the requirements imposed on the Task Force by Council Resolution 119-2017², the State Public Documents law, and the State Open Meetings Act. Ms. Flowers and Ms. Halbach volunteered to be the designees required by the Open Meetings Act. The Task Force, and each of its subcommittees, must have a designee who has completed Open Meetings Act training³. The members were cautioned that the Open Meetings Act requirements are triggered whenever a quorum of the Task Force, or a quorum of a subcommittee, meets to discuss Task Force business, even if the meeting does not occur face-to-face.

The chairpersons discussed the way they anticipate that the Task Force will proceed: the full Task Force will meet every other month and the subcommittees will meet during the intervening months. The goal

¹ <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/EOPTaskForce>

² Available here: <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/olis/GetFile.aspx?id=14097>

³ The training is available on-line here: http://www.igsr.umd.edu/VLC/OMA/class_oma_intro1.php

is to formulate preliminary recommendations by the early fall of 2018. The Task Force discussed the way that subcommittees might be formed and the consensus was that there should be 3 subcommittees:

1. Housing and Community Development
2. Economic Development including transportation
3. Education and Workforce Development.

Each of the various duties described in Council Resolution 119, beginning on page 2 at line 23 could then be assigned to one of the 3 subcommittees. The members were asked to be prepared with first and second subcommittee choices.

Members were also asked to think about which subject matter experts should be invited to either brief the full Task Force, brief a subcommittee, or serve on a subcommittee.

The Task Force determined to meet next on December 11, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the C. Vernon Gray Room at the George Howard Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.